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Letter dated 25 January 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my authorities, I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Mr. Boris Tadić, at the Security Council debate on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) held on 22 January 2010, and to bring to your kind attention the following considerations.

I would like to stress that the Republic of Croatia regrets that President Tadić decided to use the occasion of the debate on UNMIK to deliver an unfounded response to the words of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mr. Stjepan Mesić, about the possible consequences of the disintegration of neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina, uttered in an informal conversation during a New Year's reception for the media.

In addition to the fact that he was speaking informally to a group of journalists, President Mesić formulated his words in the conditional tense, i.e., he was speculating about something that might happen in the case of another event — the concrete secession of Republika Srpska from independent and internationally recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its annexation to the Republic of Serbia.

Basically, the President's words ought to be understood as a radically formulated warning that the world should not close its eyes to the policy of the Prime Minister of the Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik, and to the possible effects of such a policy, just as, for too long, it closed its eyes to the policy of Slobodan Milošević, which led to the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia in bloody wars. At the same time, President Mesić wanted to say, quite clearly, that the disintegration of neighbouring and friendly Bosnia and Herzegovina would be absolutely unacceptable to Croatia.

As regards stability and the normalization of conditions in the region, it would be worthwhile to recall that the progress achieved in that sphere over the past decade is the result, in substantial part, of the consistent efforts of the President of the Republic of Croatia. Unfortunately, such efforts have recently not been met with a response of some natural partners in this process, who now want to accuse the Republic of Croatia and its President, without any real foundation, as those who question or jeopardize security in South-East Europe.

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In conclusion, I would like to confirm that such unwarranted and unacceptable reactions to statements by Croatian officials will not deter Croatia from pursuing good-neighbourly relations with all countries in the region.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Neven **Mikeć**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.